



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

8A

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/606,250	06/24/2003	Robert J. Garabedian	24728-7003 (2024728-70148)	4498
7590	05/26/2005			EXAMINER
Bingham McCutchen LLP Suite 1800 Three Embarcadero Center San Francisco, CA 94111-4067			PEFFLEY, MICHAEL F	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3739	

DATE MAILED: 05/26/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/606,250	GARABEDIAN ET AL.	
	Examiner Michael Peffley	Art Unit 3739	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 February 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 23-29, 33-44, 48, 49 and 70-75 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 23-29, 33-44, 48, 49 and 70-75 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/12/04 10/12/04
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____

Applicant's amendments and comments, received February 15, 2005, have been fully considered by the examiner now of record. The current examiner has performed an updated search and is applying new art to the claims. As such, the instant Office action will be non-final.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 48 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 48 depends from canceled claim 47 making the scope of the claim unclear. For the sake of examination, it is assumed that claim 48 should depend from claim 35.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 23-29, 33-44, 48, 49 and 70-75 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edwards et al (6,402,744) in view of the teaching of Edwards et al (6,712,814).

Edwards et al ('744) disclose an apparatus that includes an alignment device (58) and an ablation probe (66) that is deployed from an aperture (130) in the alignment

device into tissue. In particular, Figures 34 and 35 show embodiments whereby the ablation probe (or probes) are deployed from an aperture at one location, withdrawn back into the guiding device, then re-deployed from a different portion of the aperture to create another lesion at a separate location from the first (col. 20, lines 18+). The purpose of the Edwards et al device is to create plural lesions in tumor tissue, which lesions may have various configurations. Edwards et al ('744) teach withdrawing the ablation probe and re-deploying it to create a new ablation lesion, but fails to specifically disclose re-deploying the electrode from a separate aperture in the guiding device.

Edwards et al ('814) disclose a substantially identical device to the Edwards et al ('744) device. In particular, Edwards et al ('814) teach that the electrodes (i.e. ablation probes) may be advanced from selected apertures along the length of the alignment device (see col. 7, lines 12-45). Edwards et al further specifically teach that each of the ablation probes comprises a cannula (92) and an electrode (90) deployable from the cannula (see Figure 13), and also disclose the use of a boss (66,68) for modifying a distance the ablation probe is guided (see Figure 7). Both Edwards et al systems disclose the use of multiple electrodes deployed in various arrangements to make a desired lesion pattern.

To have re-deployed the Edwards et al ('744) electrodes from an aperture different from the first aperture in order to provide a desired spacing between ablation sites without moving the guiding member would have been an obvious consideration for one of ordinary skill in the art, particularly since Edwards et al ('744) disclose deploying an electrode at separate locations without moving the guiding member, and further

since Edwards et al (814) teach that the electrodes may be selectively deployed from any desired aperture along the length of the guiding member.

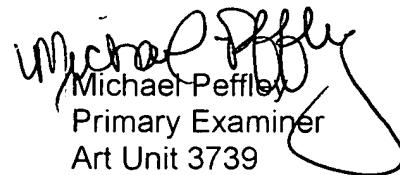
Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to the pending claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Peffley whose telephone number is (571) 272-4770. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri from 6am-3pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Linda Dvorak can be reached on (571) 272-4764. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Michael Peffley
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3739

mp
May 23, 2005